

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/816,897

Applicant(s)

DALLMANN ET AL.

Examiner

Stephen Elmore

Art Unit

2185

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the application filed 4/5/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-18.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: ____.


Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 4/5/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date ____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other ____.


STEPHEN C. ELMORE
PRIMARY EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT AND REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

in order to correct obvious typographic errors,

Claim 1, lines 6-7, replace "the array of data storage medium." with --the array of data storage media.--;

Claim 2, line 3, replace "the array of data storage medium" with --the array of data storage media--;

Claim 4, line 1, replace "comprising" with --comprising:--;

Claim 9, line 8, replace "the array of data storage medium" with --the array of data storage media.--;

Claim 10, line 5, replace "size" with --size.--;

Claim 12, line 2, replace "media" with --media.--;

Claim 13, line 8, replace "media" with --medium--;

Claim 13, line 9, replace "medium." with --media.--;

Claim 14, line 5, replace "size" with --size.--;

Claim 16, line 2, replace "for" with --for:--;

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Claim 17, lines 6-7, replace "the array of data storage medium" with --the array of data storage media.--;

Claim 18, lines 7-8, replace "the array of data storage medium" with --the array of data storage media.--;

Authorization for the following examiner's amendments were given in a telephone interview with Applicant's representative Mr. Richard Stokey, Reg. No. 40,383, on November 27, 2006:

Claim 4, line 2, replace "the storage system." with --the data storage medium.--;

Claim 16, line 3, replace "the storage system." with --the data storage medium.--.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

In independent claims 1, 9, 13, 17 and 18 directed towards a method of block formatting a data storage medium, an array of data storage media, and a program product and system for block formatting a data storage medium, the following features taken in combination with the remaining limitations of the independent claims are not found in and/or are not obvious in view of the prior art of record, giving the feature "fast format" the scope of meaning as disclosed in paragraph [0004], and the feature "initialization" the scope of meaning as disclosed in paragraph [0013],

Claims 1, 13 and 17,

"if the fast format indicator is set, then writing initially to any blocks of the data storage medium that will be read during initialization of the array of data storage media";

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Claim 9,

"if the fast format indicator is set, then performing initialization of said plurality of data storage media, said topology manager system writing initially to any blocks of the data storage media that will be read during initialization of the array of the data storage media";

Claim 18,

"means for, if the fast format indicator is set, writing initially to any blocks of the data storage medium that will be read during initialization of the array of data storage media".

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen Elmore whose telephone number is (571) 272-4436. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri from 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sanjiv Shah can be reached on (571) 272-4098. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

November 27, 2006


STEPHEN C. ELMORE
PRIMARY EXAMINER